

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

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Dear Connecticut Legislators,

I ask that you please consider the following comments on House Bill 5444, "An Act Making Revisions to the Student Data Privacy Act of 2016."

Raised Bill No. 5444 will serve to substantially clarify ambiguities in the statutory requirements for school districts to safeguard student data. It will also facilitate compliance with the requirements for both school districts and educational technology companies, thus improving accessibility to educational software and products that will enhance learning, support instruction, and create pathways for personalized learning.

I am confident that the additional oversight that has been given to the Commission for Educational Technology, including developing guidance on the implementation of student data privacy laws, information about the uniform student data privacy terms-of-service agreement, and its incorporation into district contracts, will serve Connecticut school districts well.

I also support the expansion of the task force to study issues relating to student privacy to include the Executive director of the Connecticut Association of Schools, as doing so will enhance the work of the group and ensure the inclusion of all affected constituencies.

I would respectfully request that the Legislature consider three changes to the current proposal that would greatly enhance the ability of Connecticut school districts to best serve the educational needs of our students and sufficiently protect their data privacy rights:

- Allow the uniform student data privacy terms-of-service agreement *addendum* to be used **in lieu** of individualized district contracts.
- Extend the timeline for electronic reporting of a breach of security (as identified in CGS §10-243dd(3)) to **five business days** to allow districts to investigate the source and extent of the security breach with the educational technology vendor, sufficiently and accurately identify affected students, and develop and implement a comprehensive communication plan regarding the security breach.
- **Expand** the provision in CGS §10-234bb(i) that **exempts** districts **from entering** into a contract "if two or fewer children requiring special education" require the use of an educational technology resource. Individual student needs are evaluated as part of the Planning and Placement Team process, and may result in a recommendation for a resource need to be implemented in a timely fashion. In order to minimize the potential impact on the delivery of educationally appropriate resources in a timely manner, it is my recommendation that the **number of students allowed to use a special education resource be removed and that a blanket exemption for the use of special education students, regardless of number, be included.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Dr. Charles Dumais

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